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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY NATIONAL POSITION ON COST

-- SHARING OF NATO AWACS

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1. THE FOLLOWING POSITION (PARAS TWO THROUGH EIGHT BELOW)

SHOULD BE PRESENTED AT THE 15 SEPT 1975 MEETING OF THE CNAD HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING:

2. WITHOUT PRIUDICE TO FUTURE UNITED STATES POSITIONS CONCERNING PARTICIPATION IN A POTENTIAL NATO AEW PROCUREMENT PROGRAM, AND THE PROCEDURES AND SHARING OF COSTS THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES OFFERS THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY POSITION:

A) A NATO FORCE OF LAND-BASED AEW AIRCRAFT WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS FROM ITS FLEXIBLE AND MODILE CAPABILITIES FOR LONG-RANGE LOW-LEVEL SURVEILLANCE AND TACTICAL CONTROL OF AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS:

- -- 1. STRENGTHEN NATO'S DETERRENCE CAPABILITIES;
- -- 2. ENHANCE NATO'S CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND WAR-FIGHTING CAPABILITIES:
- -- 3. IMPROVE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FORCE INTEROPERATION;
- -- 4. ENHANCE NATO SOLIDARITY THROUGH NATIONAL AND IN-DUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION.
- B) IN VIEW OF THE INDIVISIBLE BENEFITS ACCRUING TO ALL NATO NATIONS FROM THESE CAPABILITIES, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT AN AEW FORCE SHOULD BE PROCURED FOR OPERATION AS A NATO COMMON SYSTEM AND THAT ALL NATIONS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM SHOULD DEFENSE MINISTERS DECIDE TO PROCURE IT.
- 3. SUBJECT TO THE CONGRESS AUTHORIZING AND MAKING FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE UNITED STATES WILL FUND UP TO 25 PERCENT OF A COMMON NATO AEW PROGRAM BASED ON A DERIVATIVE OF THE E-3A AWACS.
- 4. NATO AEW PROGRAM COSTS ARE CONSIDERED TO INCLUDE:
- -- A. SPECIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH AN AGREED NATO AEW CONFIGURATION DERIVED FROM THE F-3A AWACS:
- -- B. CAPITAL INVESTMENT COSTS; I.E. AIRCRAFT, GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, AND GROUND INTERFACE EQUIPMENT; CONFIDENTIAL

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- -- C. CONTINUING OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.
- 5. PENDING DETERMINATION OF PROGRAM COST TOTALS, BASED ON CONFIGURATIONS AND NUMBERS OF PROGRAM EQUIPMENTS, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT CURRENTLY LIMIT ITS COST SHARE TO A SPECIFIC COST TOTAL.
- 6. SUBJECT TO THE CONGRESS AUTHORIZING AND MAKING FUNDS

AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS IN THE DECEMBER 1975-FEBRUARY 1976 TIME FRAME, IN SUPPORT OF A MINISTERIAL DECISION, TO INITIATE E-3A AWACS LONG-LEAD EFFORTS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF THE UNITED STATES' SHARE OF NATO AWACS AIRCRAFT.

- 7. THE UNITED STATES HAS NO PREFERENCE FOR USE OF ANY SPECIFIC BUDGET, BUT BELIEVES THAT COST SHARES NOR PARTICIPATING NATIONS SHOULD GENERALLY REFLECT EACH NATION'S POTENTIAL OPERATIONAL BENEFIT FROM AEW AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATO ALLIANCE.
- 8. FOR NATIONS WHO MAY WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM BUT WHO WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN MAKING AVAILABLE THEIR FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE TIME SCALE REQUIRED, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO EXPLORE MEANS, SUCH AS INTEREST BEARING LOANS, WHEREBY THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS COULD BE PROVIDED. FINAL APPROVAL FOR SUCH ACTION WOULD, OF COURSE,

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